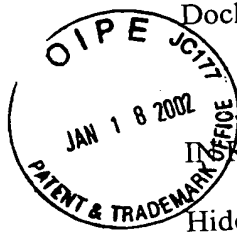


Docket No.: 211790US-3



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Hideaki MOCHIMARU et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/915,398

FILED: JULY 27, 2001

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GROUP ART UNIT: 2622

EXAMINER: Unassigned as of yet

#9/A
KD
9-17-02

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMAGE FORMING CAPABLE OF
EFFECTIVE COLLATING A STACK OF SINGLE-/DOUBLE-SIDED
RECORDING SHEETS IN A DESIRED EJECTION TRAY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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JAN 2 2002

JAN 28 2002

Technology Center 2600

SIR:

Technology Center 2600

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent
application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Filed herewith is a substitute specification and marked-up copy of the original
specification.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-100 as shown in clean form below. A marked-up copy
the amended claims is attached at the end of this amendment.

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first image carrying member configured to carry at least one image transferred from

at least one original in increasing order of corresponding sheet numbers;

A1